

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor Conference Room at the Town Offices. Present were: Chairman S. Jon Stumpf, Vice Chair Mary O'Donoghue, Linn Anderson, Paul Fortier, Margaret (Peggy) Kruse, Joanne Marden and Gregory Serrao; also present: Finance Director Donna Walsh. The meeting was cablecast live.

Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Kruse seconded by Ms. Anderson, the Committee voted to approve the September 26th minutes. The motion passed 5-0-1 with changes.

FY14 Budget Preparation Update

Mr. Stumpf reported that members of the School Committee expressed interest in having a discussion prior to the revenues and expenses coming out in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Report that will be presented at the Tri-Board Meeting on Dec. 3rd. The CIP will be out on Oct. 26th for FY14 and a presentation and public hearing will be held on Nov. 19th. There was much discussion about whether or not a Tri-Board meeting is necessary prior to the Report being completed to discuss various issues. In a meeting next week with the Town Manager and School Administrators, Mr. Stumpf will discuss whether or not there is a need either for a full meeting or to have some representatives from the Tri-Board meet ahead as a sub-committee. Mr. Stumpf will report back to the Finance Committee.

Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)/Pension

An OPEB/Pension Questions and Answers draft document, including comments from Ms. Kruse, was distributed. The goal is to get a factual understanding of OPEB and Pension details.

There was much discussion about what Questions/Answers should be included in the document. Mr. Stumpf and Ms. Kruse will revise the OPEB/Pension Questions and Answers draft incorporating the new suggestions, and then resend to the Committee.

Liaison Updates

Ms. O'Donoghue reported that the new Bancroft School ground-breaking was very exciting. A financial update is forthcoming.

Ms. Kruse met with staff of the Planning Department and learned about the following 2 initiatives that are being discussed:

1. An Overlay in West Andover for Senior Housing on the far side of River Road. Thoughts about retirement homes/assisted living facilities are being explored. Comparisons to other towns are being made to gather information and solicit feedback.

There was discussion about the Finance Committee following zoning issues and the financial impacts they may have. For instance, a Senior Development may not have a big impact on schools, but may increase use of fire and ambulance services.

2. Rezoning the Industrial Districts (ID) – River Road, Dascomb Rd. - to allow for amenities such as a medical clinic or dry cleaner is being discussed. This would bring additional revenue without taking away from the Downtown businesses where these folks do not seem to go.

Liaison Updates (cont'd)

Mr. Serrao met with Dennis Forgue from the School Department who reported that the schools were reviewing their Capital Improvement Projects for FY14 to FY18, totaling around \$9M/year. Currently, Information Technology (IT) expenses are the main focus at the High School and Doherty Middle. Mr. Serrao offered to break down the expenses by school and request that the school department include projections into the CIP 5-year plan.

Shawsheen renovation, which would be needed for Pre-K, would be expensive to bring into code compliance with respect to disabilities, handicap access, etc. The building was a gift from the Wood family and is designated for educational use only. Various options will need to be explored to finance renovations.

Mr. Stumpf mentioned that the back of the library improvements were completed and look great.

Next Meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 24th.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Documents: OPEB/Pension Questions and Answers

Respectfully Submitted,

Trudy Zakin

Recording Secretary